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be in a state of perfect isostasy, with the compensating deficiency of mass under land areas and the excess of mass under ocean areas, uniformly distributed to the *depth of compensation,* which, as derived from astronomic and trigonometric data, is 113.7 kilometers below sea level. This is equivalent to the assumption that each unit column, extending from the surface to a depth of 113.7 kilometers below sea level, at the coast, in the interior, or in the ocean, has the same mass. The results of the investigation showed that on an average this condition is near the truth, but there are small anomalies at the different stations which show slight local deviations from the ideal condition.

The report shows that the Hayford anomalies do not indicate any appreciable relation to the topography and in this they differ from the older method of reduction now in general use in other countries. It is now possible to compute the theoretical value of gravity at any point in the United States (and possibly in other countries) with an even chance of its being within about .020 dyne of the value which would be obtained from pendulum observations at that point. This is one of the important results of the investigation. It is not possible, in such a brief note, to do more than to call attention to the matter contained in this report which should be of interest to scientists in general, but especially to the geodesist, geologist, and seismologist.

W. Bowie.

TEXT BOOKS

Die Erklärende Beschreibung der Landformen. Von William M. Davis. Deutsch bearbeitet von Dr. A. Rühl. xviii and 565 pp. Ills., index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1912. 9½ x 6½.

Among the results of Professor Davis's service at the University of Berlin as Harvard's representative in the German Visiting Professorship for 1908-09, must now be reckoned the publication of this masterly presentation of his ideas on the explanatory description of land forms. The book is dedicated to two Universities—Harvard and Berlin—and is based on the lectures delivered at Berlin. The general plan of treatment and the essence of the subject-matter are already familiar to American students of physiography; but we have here for the first time a fairly complete, systematic treatment of the subject, of much more advanced grade than that found in the author's "Physical Geography." Many teachers who have had to refer students to scattered articles for such treatment in the past, will wait with impatience the appearance of this, or a similar book, in English.

After an author's preface and a reprint of his inaugural address at Berlin, we are introduced to the work proper by a discussion of the essence of geography. The next chapter, "The Erosion Cycle," begins with a consideration of methods of geographical study and research, and ends with practical suggestions for the making of geographical diagrams. The cycle of normal erosion is elaborated deductively, the author giving, with the aid of diagrams, the general features which theoretically should characterize its different stages. Then follows a chapter in which the deduced features are tested by confronting them with facts observed in the field, numerous European and American examples of normal erosion forms being described and figured. A further elaboration of the deductive scheme follows, including some account of the different structures upon which erosion operates, of the different processes by which land masses are worn down, and of the effects consequent upon interruptions of a cycle of erosion.

About one-third of the volume is devoted to the foregoing considerations. A somewhat smaller amount of space is given to an elaboration of the forms produced by the dissections of plains, plateaus, mountains and volcanoes; while the remainder of the volume deals with the arid, glacial and marine cycles of erosion, closing with a full index.

Each chapter is followed by an appendix containing practical exercises for the student and by a list of references cited by the author. Block diagrams are used profusely, and add greatly to the value of the book. Photographic illustrations are limited in number, but are well chosen and beautifully reproduced. We may congratulate ourselves that the methods of the American school of physiography are so well presented to German students.

D. W. Johnson.